



## **Pauingassi Draft Community Based Land Use Plan**

**Pauingassi-Ontario Planning Area**

**"The Land of Fair Wind"**

**Pauingassi First Nation  
and  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources**

**November 2010**

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## **Pauingassi Draft Community Based Land Use Plan Pauingassi-Ontario Planning Area**

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### **Notes on language:**

- In the text, the names 'Pauingassi First Nation' and 'Pauingassi' both refer to the First Nation, the community and its people. With respect, the acronym 'PFN' is also used

## ***Foreword***

Pauingassi First Nation is leading the preparation of land use direction for trapline areas that are situated in both Ontario and Manitoba. Although there are two separate planning processes - one with each province - Pauingassi is considering planning with a holistic view, to prepare direction that will be meaningful for their entire area of interest. Please note that planning areas do not necessarily define Pauingassi's full self-described traditional land use area.

A primary reason for Pauingassi to engage in planning is for the well being of future generations. Planning will document community priorities, desired uses and opportunities, and provide strategic direction for the management of lands and resources. The resulting plans will reflect a consensus among the community members and with the province.

The Pauingassi Draft Community Based Land Use Plan presented in this document addresses an area in the Far North of Ontario. Pauingassi is working together with Ontario to prepare this plan as part of Ontario's Far North Planning Initiative.

### ***Draft Plan Summary***

Pauingassi First Nation is leading a Community Based Land Use Planning process, working together with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to address trapline areas in Ontario. Pauingassi is also working together with the province of Manitoba to complete planning for their entire area of interest.

Planning began in 2009 by holding traditional land use and occupancy interviews with elders and other members of the community to document cultural lands, values and ecological information as well as detailed plant and animal information. Ontario contributed information on landforms/vegetation mapping, fish and wildlife, geology, and land use (existing and potential).

Over the past year, the planning team has continued a dialogue, analyzed information and sought advice. The Draft Plan is now being shared for consideration by all interested people, on the basis that it meets the goals, objectives, and principles set out by Pauingassi and Ontario, including emerging direction with the Ontario Far North Planning Initiative. Strategic direction speaks to respect for traditional use and other existing land uses, protection of the environment, and identification of opportunities that can contribute to a stronger community economy. The Draft Plan recommends zoning the planning area as two land use areas, described below. In both areas, waterways are noted to be important for traditional use and natural heritage conservation, with potential to enhance recreation and tourism opportunities.

#### **Pauingassi Dedicated Protected Area (106,628 ha):**

This zone is proposed to support protection of lands and waters, continued traditional use and existing and new tourism opportunities. The type of protected area and regulatory mechanism is to be determined jointly by Pauingassi and Ontario in a separate dialogue. In this area, the following is interim direction for land use activities:

##### *Permitted Uses:*

- Aboriginal traditional activities which include (but are not limited to) hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering.
- Travel by motorized boat, snow machine or airplane.
- Recreational sport fishing, hunting, research/education
- Commercial fur harvesting, commercial fishing, commercial tourism, wild rice harvesting.

##### *Excluded uses:*

- commercial forestry, mineral exploration, mining, commercial power generation development (hydroelectric transmission or generation, wind power), new energy transmission and communication corridors, commercial bait fishing
- road building, aggregate extraction, peat extraction.

#### **Cherrington Lake Enhanced Management Area - cultural heritage category (32,135 ha):**

This zone is proposed to support both protection and potential economic development opportunities associated with areas of provincially significant mineral potential.

##### *Permitted Uses:*

- Aboriginal traditional activities which include (but are not limited to) hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering.
- Mineral exploration and development
- Travel by motorized boat, snow machine, ATV, airplane.

- Recreational sport fishing, hunting, research/education,
- Commercial fur harvesting, commercial fishing, commercial tourism, wild rice harvesting, commercial NTFP
- Aggregate extraction is permitted for site specific needs associated with the mineral sector; extraction for export of aggregate beyond the area is not permitted natural features are to be maintained.
- Roads are generally discouraged, but are permitted within the area if required to access mineral sector opportunities. The number of roads will be minimized. Roads would be developed in a manner that seeks to retain the integrity of the cultural and natural features and high quality remote tourism operations.

*Excluded uses:*

- Commercial forestry
- peat extraction
- Bait fishing

Through plan implementation, Ontario shares Pauingassi's interest in exploring arrangements to continue working together in the management of lands and resources. It is noted that completion of Pauingassi's land use plan will contribute to the submission for the 'Pimachiowin Aki' Boreal Forest World Heritage Site (WHS) nomination, in which Pauingassi is one of seven proponents.

Planning will continue between the Draft and Final Plan to consider all input and response to the Draft Plan and to confirm, or adjust direction accordingly.

## ***PART A: PURPOSE AND PROCESS***

### **A.1. Introduction**

Pauingassi First Nation is an Ojibway (Saulteaux) speaking community that resides 270 km North East of Winnipeg. According to the regional May 2010 population statistics Pauingassi has an on reserve population of 550 and an off-reserve population of 40. Current economic pursuits include band government employment, fishing, and trapping. It is through the creation of a Community Based Land Use Plan (CBLUP) that Pauingassi and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) are working to address protection needs and encourage the growth of a healthy and sustainable economy for both the community and the province by defining opportunities associated with lands and resources.

Pauingassi has been working with the OMNR since 2004. Dialogue began with an expression of interest in planning. The neighbouring communities of Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids determined that planning would be undertaken separately by each community, but in concurrent processes and with respect for ongoing dialogue with other neighbouring communities and Manitoba.

In 2009, Pauingassi and OMNR reached consensus on and approved a Terms of Reference for preparation of a Community Based Land Use Plan and have since been engaged in a formal planning process, referred to as Pauingassi First Nation-Ontario (PFN-Ontario). The planning dialogue has moved forward within the context of community objectives, the World Heritage Site nomination, and the objectives of the Ontario Far North Planning Initiative. An additional discussion of context and relationships follows:

- Pauingassi has a close relationship based on historical and family ties with the adjacent community to the south, Little Grand Rapids First Nation. The communities are working closely to share information and planning dialogue, and make the most efficient use of travel and meeting arrangements.
- Pauingassi is one of 6 proponents associated with the Boreal Forest World Heritage Site (WHS) nomination. This site, called Pimachiown Aki was placed on the WHS nomination list in 2004. The next step is to prepare for the submission. Preparing land use direction in partnership with the associated provinces agencies (Ontario and Manitoba) will lead to formal implementation of land use designations, contribute to a strong submission and further illustrate the collaborative nature of the WHS proposal.
- Ontario's Far North Planning Initiative was launched in July 2008, with an announcement by the Premier of Ontario to protect more than 225,000 km<sup>2</sup>, or more than half of the Northern Boreal Region, and to address the goals of conservation of ecosystems and functions, Aboriginal community involvement and environmentally sustainable economic development. Furthermore, on June 2, 2009, Bill 191, the Far North Act was introduced in Ontario's Legislature; the Far North Act received Royal Assent October 25, 2010. The Ontario policy called Community-based Land Use Planning (OMNR, 2002) has provided the policy umbrella for the Pauingassi First Nation-Ontario ongoing process. As it moves forward, the process is taking into account the emerging policies and processes established in the Far North Planning Initiative.



- Ontario and Manitoba have an ongoing dialogue to support planning in a manner that will lead to complementary zoning and direction for activities across the provincial boundary.

The planning process has now arrived at the Draft Plan stage and is the subject of consultation within the First Nation community and with all interested people and parties in Ontario. This Draft Plan summarizes work to date and presents proposals for land use zoning and strategic direction.

Your response to our Draft Plan is welcome.

## **A.2. Guiding Direction – Vision, Goals, Objectives and Principles**

Guiding direction for the PFN-Ontario CBLUP has been prepared through a dialogue informed by the Pauingassi historical and contemporary relationship to the land, and by provincial goals and objectives.

A set of directional statements - Vision, Goals and Objectives - were set out in the Terms of Reference and confirmed through the first consultation opportunities in November 2009. The directional statements are presented here, with minor adjustments or editing for clarification as recommended by the planning team. A set of principles are described as they express underlying values to guide both preparation and implementation of the plan.

### **Vision**

Pauingassi vision statement clearly communicates a picture of the future based on the relationship of its people to this area and the need to sustain this relationship for future generations.

#### **Pauingassi First Nation – Vision Statement**

*The people of Pauingassi First Nation have been part of the land from time immemorial (as long as the oldest elder of our community remembers). We believe and assert that we are part of the land. Our vision for the land is very much a vision for (of) ourselves. We wish to (use) manage our traditional land (in a way) so that our people as (being) part of the land are sustained into the future. For that purpose we are engaged in the steps needed to arrive at a land use plan for our traditional land in both Manitoba and Ontario.*

The planning team is proposing the addition of a joint Vision Statement (between Pauingassi First Nation and Ontario) expressing the commitment to continue working together in a positive relationship for implementation of the plan:

*The people of Pauingassi First Nation and Ontario value their ongoing relationship, working together for the benefit and health of people, lands and waters.*



## Goals

The plan seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Strive to sustain and protect the natural world for present and future generations;
- Identify environmentally sustainable economic developments pursuant to the strategic land use direction;
- Pauingassi seeks to contribute to management of this traditional land use area, as land use can support an improved community economy, training, and jobs for our people based (while) on the health of our traditional land;
- Support and sustain Pauingassi traditional knowledge, traditional land uses, and access to these lands now and for future generations; and
- Pauingassi First Nation will uphold and sustain our sovereign rights, both under Canada's Constitution, including Section 35, and our rights under Treaty 5, while planning for this traditional land use area and the future of our community.

## Objectives

The plan provides direction supporting achievement of the goals by addressing the following objectives:

- Prepare a land use strategy that is also a communication plan to share information about the relationship of the people of Pauingassi First Nations in all its aspects with their land so that it is understood and sustained;
- Support continued use of traditional lands and traditional uses in both a historical and contemporary context;
- Record and share traditional knowledge;
- Identify opportunities that are desired and compatible with this area;
- Harmonize objectives of Pauingassi and OMNR in land use and natural resource management;
- Determine protection zones and other land use designations;
- Take into account Ontario's broader policy direction and Far North objectives for planning;
- Ensure local planning decisions do not preclude broader scale options development.

## Principles

The following principles express underlying values to guide both preparation and implementation of the plan:

- Pauingassi First Nation has a duty and interest to protect and manage this land for future generations.
- Protect, respect and celebrate sacred and ancestral places and values
- Pauingassi First Nation respects the historical and continued shared use of its traditional territory by neighbouring communities for traditional activities of; hunting, fishing, gathering, travel etc. There has always been overlap in traditional use areas between communities.
- Recognize the area as it is part of the northern boreal forest and its ecological processes that have shaped the landscape for millennia.
- Recognize that the continuous flow of water beyond and through this land is vital to the land and its people. Protection of water sources is of the highest importance, as is management and protection of lakes and river corridors.

Additional sources of direction for OMNR's engagement in the preparation and implementation of the land use plan include:

- OMNR Community-based Land Use Planning policy (2002);
- Our Sustainable Future (2005) which outlines OMNR's vision of sustainable development and the mission of ecological sustainability, and establishes a commitment to the conservation of biodiversity;
- OMNR's Statement of Environmental Values (2009) under the Ontario Bill of Rights; and
- Ontario's Far North Planning Initiative (2008) and the Far North Act 2010, including emerging direction on policy and planning. The objectives for land use planning in the Far North are:
  1. A significant role for First Nations in the planning.
  2. The protection of areas of cultural value in the Far North and the protection of ecological systems in the Far North by including at least 225,000 square kilometers of the Far North in an interconnected network of protected areas designated in community based land use plans.
  3. The maintenance of biological diversity, ecological processes and ecological functions, including the storage and sequestration of carbon in the Far North;
  4. Enabling sustainable economic development that benefits the First Nations.

### **A.3. Land Use Planning Area**

#### **3.1 Definition of the Area**

The planning area is 138,764 ha in the Far North of Ontario. This area has been defined as the portion of Pauingassi First Nation's self-described traditional territory that falls within the Far North of Ontario, defined by traplines held by the people of Pauingassi, whose relationship to the province of Ontario is established through Treaty #5 and the Constitution. Traplines do not necessarily represent the historical land use and occupancy by the people of Pauingassi First Nation, however the use of traplines to define the planning area was chosen to respect neighbouring communities and for ease of planning.

The planning area is presented in Figure 1. The area lies in the Far North of Ontario, to the northwest of the area defined as the Whitefeather Forest, north of Little Grand Rapids traditional territory and west and north of areas described as traditional territory of St. Theresa Point, Deer Lake, Pikangikum and Poplar Hill. Other planning and administrative boundaries which are directly relevant to this initiative are noted in Figure 1 and include: Ontario's Far North, Woodland Caribou Signature Site and the Manitoba border. The surrounding communities of Red Lake, Poplar Hill First Nation, Pikangikum First Nation and Deer Lake First Nation are also noted on Figure 1. St. Theresa Point First Nation is located immediately north of the mapped area.

From this point forward, the planning area will be referred to as the PFN-Ontario planning area.

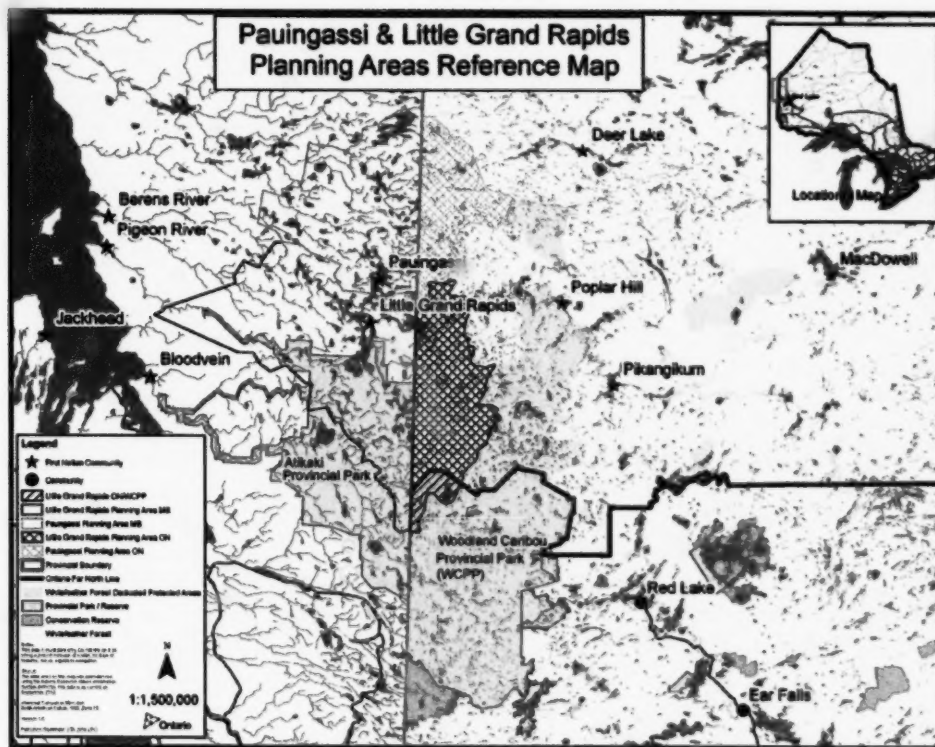


Figure 1: Reference Map - Pauingassi Community Based Land Use Plan

### 3.2 Descriptions of the Pauingassi-Ontario Planning Area – Cultural, Socioeconomic, Ecological

The following description is a snapshot of the planning area with respect to its people, history, current uses, and land and resource characteristics.

#### 3.2.1 Culture and History

Historical use of the land as defined by Pauingassi includes customary land uses around traplines. It also includes use of travel routes to access trap lines and activities carried out along the way such as camping, making fires, tea breaks, rests, berry picking, fishing, and hunting. The culture and history of this area is primarily informed by the relationship of Pauingassi, an Anishinaabe speaking community located in Manitoba.

In the PFN-Ontario planning area, cultural features on the landscape such as pictographs, burial and ceremonial sites have been mapped and documented as having both historical and current relevance to the people of Pauingassi.

### **3.2.2 Current Pauingassi First Nation Land Uses**

In the present day, Pauingassi First Nation members spend time on the land doing a variety of customary activities outside the community site. Customary land uses include traditional pursuits protected by Aboriginal and treaty rights (including but not limited to trapping, hunting, fishing) and other historical livelihood activities carried out in a traditional and/or contemporary manner.

Activities include, but are not limited to:

- hunting and fishing (personal and shared use), commercial fishing, trapping (personal and shared community use; licensed, non licensed)
- use of travel routes to travel to traplines and activities carried out along the way such as camping, making fires, tea breaks, rests, berry picking, fishing, and hunting
- travel by canoe, boat, motorized vehicles, snowmobile, plane, floatplane, and in Manitoba - travel by vehicle within community and on winter road
- guiding, camping, staying in cabins
- gathering medicinal plants (personal and shared use) and gathering non-timber forest products (e.g. berries, herbs, mushrooms – for personal and shared use)
- cutting firewood
- swimming in lakes and rivers
- sacred sites/ceremonial sites
- wild rice harvest (for personal use)
- ceremonies, events, gatherings.

Caribou hunts are rarely planned and usually occur by chance. Moose are preferred as a food source because of their reliability and the large quantity of meat that is obtained. The products of the “kill” are generally shared with members of the hunting parties’ families.

### **3.2.3 Other Land Uses and Tenure (existing and/or historical)**

Tourism in the PFN-Ontario planning area consists of six remote outposts on five lakes. OMNR has identified three additional lakes that could support recreational fishing and hunting in new tourism opportunities. These lakes include the Namiwan Lakes (2) and one unnamed lake west of Orono Lake. There are several boat caches.

There are 3 bear management areas. Bear management areas are a licensed section of crown land where bear hunting is regulated. These areas typically have potential bear habitat, and tourist outfitters or guides licensed to hunt bear.

Recreation use is common on the Bradburn waterway that flows through the PFN-Ontario planning and merges with the Berens River.

### **3.2.4 Lands and Resources**

The planning area is situated entirely in the Boreal Forest Region.

#### **Water, Wetlands**

Waters are vital to First Nation communities that have existed here for thousands of years, depending on waters for fishing, travel, wild rice plantations, and drinking water. Healthy rivers and lakes are a cultural and spiritual necessity for First Nation communities.

In the PFN-Ontario planning area, water generally flows from east to west, with drainage generally towards Lake Winnipeg with many lakes, rivers, streams and rapids. Low falls occur where there are bedrock outcrops along rivers and streams.

### **Geology**

The PFN-Ontario planning area is dominated by 2.7 to 3 billion year old rocks of the Canadian Shield composed of granite, gneisses, and ancient volcanic rocks (e.g. basalt, gabbro). Located west of the traditional territory is a younger geological formation of 400 to 500 million-year-old rocks composed of limestone and sandstone.

Surficial Geology can be generally described by:

- Organic deposits found in bogs, fens, and swamp areas where organic (plant) material settles. Organic deposits include peat, muck, and some inorganic sediment;
- 'Undivided' rock with minor Quaternary deposits from about 1.8 million years ago to the present;
- Till Veneer as a thin layer of till that is not continuous over the landscape and may include areas of rock outcrop. Till is sediment, generally consisting of well-compacted material that is layered and contains a mixture of sand, silt, and clay particles and coarse fragments; and
- Fine grained (glacio) lacustrine sediments generally consist of layered fine sand, silt, and clay deposited on an ancient lakebed, near lakeshore, or on a beach.

### **Climate**

The PFN-Ontario planning area falls within the Sub humid Mid-Boreal Eco climactic Region, with its climate classified as continental. It is characterized as cold to moderately cold and snowy during the winter and warm and moist during the summer. The area is influenced by weather systems originating over the land to west, north and south. Climate of the area is also modified by the maritime influences of Hudson Bay, Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg which exert a moderating influence on temperatures and increase humidity.

This area experiences a warm summer with mean temperatures of 14°C and very cold winters with a mean winter temperature of -14.5°C. Mean annual temperature for the area as a whole is -0.4°C and the average frost-free period ranges from 80-120 days. The region is considered to be sub humid to humid with 400 to 460 mm of precipitation. The growing season in the area is between 130 and 170 days.

### **Forests**

The forest is characterized by black spruce and jack pine stands with some paper birch. There are also abundant coniferous and mixed forest stands in Pauingassi-Ontario. Coniferous forest stands contain white spruce, balsam fir, and black spruce. Mixed forests stands in the area contain trembling aspen, balsam poplar, white birch, white spruce and some balsam fir.

### **Fish**

Walleye, sauger, perch, northern pike, whitefish and lake trout can be found throughout the PFN-Ontario planning area. Subsistence fishing with gillnets and recreational fishing for these species continues to be important activities for the people of Pauingassi.



### **Birds and Waterfowl**

Bird species include the spruce grouse, herring gull, and double-crested cormorant, as well as bald eagle, osprey, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, waterfowl, sharp-tailed grouse, willow ptarmigan, common nighthawk, raven, gray jay, bald eagle, hawk owl, among others. Geese, ducks and other waterfowl are seasonally hunted. Bald eagles are considered sacred and their locations are noted. Bird species in the PFN-Ontario planning area classified under the Endangered Species Act (2007) are: golden eagle (Endangered), and the whip-poor-will, bald eagles, short eared owl, and common nighthawk (all Species of Special Concern)

### **Wildlife**

Wildlife typical of this area include wolf, lynx, ermine, fisher, mink, moose, black bear, woodland caribou, red squirrel, snowshoe hare, lynx, wolverine, fisher, otter, pine marten, beaver, short-tailed weasel, red-backed vole, and least chipmunk.

Prominent mammals are moose and woodland caribou. Beaver and muskrat not only provide valuable furs, but also good meat or eating, as do rabbits and "bush chickens" (spruce grouse in particular). Otters, bear, wolf, fox, mink, fisher, ermine, wolverine, squirrel and marten are trapped for their furs.

Wildlife species in the planning area that are classified under the Endangered Species Act,(2007) are: woodland caribou and wolverine (both classified as threatened).

### **A.4. Process and Consultation**

Process and consultation requirements set out in the Terms of Reference are being followed, with revision as required to adjust timelines and reflect progress. Four phases were identified to complete a final land use plan over a 2-3 year timeframe. The first two phases were combined to share information and support a full consultation opportunity. Key components of each phase with updated timelines are:

#### **Phase 1 & 2 - Fall/Winter 2008/09**

- Terms of Reference was shared and endorsed on April 24, 2009.
- A first Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights Environmental Registry policy was posted on October 16, 2009.
- Background information was assembled and interests and opportunities identified.
- Pauingassi led dialogue within the Pauingassi community and with adjacent First Nation communities.
- The PFN-OMNR planning team facilitated public consultation opportunities at meetings and a first open house on November 3rd 2009 in Red Lake, Ontario and on November 6th in LGR and on November 5th in Pauingassi.

#### **Phase 3 - Spring to Fall 2010 - WE ARE HERE**

- Prepare Draft land use plan including proposed zoning and direction for activities within zones.
- Share draft plan broadly, seek input and build consensus on proposals.
- Provide consultation opportunities including an updated Environmental Bill of Rights registry posting, a proposed major amendment to the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas, and a set of open houses in Red Lake, Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi.

#### **Phase 4 - Winter 2011**

- Prepare final land use plan including discussions of how comments from Phase 3 were addressed.
- Provide endorsement through approval processes (First Nation and OMNR) reflecting a consensus on the land use plan.
- Share final plan.

#### **Consultation**

In this planning process, consultation opportunities are designed to provide for input from:

- Pauingassi First Nation community;
- adjacent First Nations; and
- the Ontario public at large, interested parties and stakeholders.

#### **Pauingassi Community Consultation:**

Within the Pauingassi community, consultation has focused on encouraging involvement and open expression of views and interests. Community member's mapping and sharing understanding of traditional knowledge has supported the planning dialogue as has the sharing of science and planning process information. A plan will reflect community consensus.

Throughout 2009, interviews were conducted to collect traditional land use and occupancy interviews with elders and other members of the community. On November 5<sup>th</sup> an open house was held in the community of Pauingassi. The open house provided community members the opportunity to discuss the importance of land use planning, and provide personal inputs into the planning process. Approximately 30 people from Pauingassi attended the community open house and shared their opinions and experiences with the planning team.

#### **Adjacent Community Consultation:**

Consultation with adjacent First Nations has been underway since the beginning of the planning process in 2008 when Pauingassi and Poplar Hill met with the OMNR to identify overlapping/shared areas, discuss their interests and to build an understanding of the Land Use Planning process. Community meetings with Pauingassi have occurred regularly with the communities listed above as well as St. Theresa Point and Deer Lake as the Pauingassi Community-based Land Use Plan developed. Individuals from Pikangikum, Poplar Hill and Little Grand Rapids attended the first open house in Red Lake.

#### **Public Consultation:**

On October 16, 2009, a policy proposal for the Pauingassi-Ontario Community Based Land Use Plan was posted on the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights Environmental Registry. This posting described the project and shared the Terms of Reference broadly with the public, providing an opportunity for comment. A public consultation opportunity was provided in November 3, 2009 at an open house Red Lake. This provided an opportunity for interested people and stakeholders to view information, contribute information and to ask questions of the planning team regarding the planning process and expected outcomes. Letters were mailed out to stakeholders and notices were sent to local newspapers.

Following completion of consultation opportunities for the Draft Plan, a summary of opportunities



and input will be made available. The Final Plan will include a description of consultation and how input was considered.

#### **A.5. Information Summary**

Information from all sources has supported the planning process. Primary information sources are Pauingassi, OMNR and the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forests (MNDMF).

Pauingassi has adopted extensive data collection programs to support the development of this Community Based Land use Plan. Local individuals were trained in indigenous data collection, documenting the land uses and occupancy of the Pauingassi First Nation members for the planning area and beyond. Indigenous data collection addressed cultural lands, values and ecological information as well as detailed plant and animal information.

OMNR provided information on landforms and vegetation interpreted from satellite mapping, as well as the results of field surveys (e.g. fish and wildlife surveys) and available analysis of recreation potential, hydro potential and provincially significant natural heritage features. During the planning process, proposed protected areas were evaluated for their representation of landform/vegetation complexes and enduring features.

The following mapped information was used in preparing this Draft Plan. A full data and map list, with sources of information is provided in a separate appendix to this plan, available on request.

**Cultural values maps:** Indicate the planning area as well as areas that the families of Pauingassi First Nation members have used for generations for fishing, trapping and hunting (trap line areas). Cultural values information is held by Pauingassi. It supports decision making in the planning process, however, is not provided on publicly shared maps.

**Natural heritage maps:** These maps identify eco-regions, fire history (year and location of fires across the region), caribou and wolverine habitat survey locations, watersheds, landcover, areas of provincial interest for the protection of natural heritage landforms and features.

#### **Provincially Significant Mineral Potential (PSMP)**

MNDMF has conducted a PSMP study of the planning area to assist in establishing the Draft Plan land use designations. In a PSMP study, a qualified Professional Geologist uses all available geoscientific information to assess an area to quantify the likelihood of finding an economic mineral resource that could reasonably add value to Ontario's economy. Ontario Geological Survey Open File Report 6141 (2008) sets out the methodology to be used in the study.

MNDMF PSMP analysis has identified an area of generally greenstone-hosted terrain in the Cherrington Lake area which does host significant mineral potential and which should therefore remain available for mineral exploration. The remainder of the planning area has low mineral potential. The analysis of this information was used to support the Draft Plan land use designations.

**Recreation and Tourism Maps:** Identifies location of cottages, outposts, boat caches and potential outpost lakes.

**Land Tenure:** Identifies Bear Management Areas and wild rice licence areas.

## ***PART B: DRAFT LAND USE PLAN PROPOSALS***

This section describes proposed zoning for the planning area, provides an evaluation of how proposals could achieve goals and objectives of the plan and provides recommendations for plan implementation.

### **B.1. Proposed Zoning**

The purpose of zoning is to assign areas to specific land use designations, determine the principal land uses that may occur and establish strategic (i.e., broad) direction for permitted land uses. Area-specific policies may be provided, adding to existing general policies for land use. Zoning strives to support the achievement of community and provincial objectives (See Part A.2), considering local to broad scale contexts, implications and linkages. Furthermore, zoning communicates the land use intent, provides a level of certainty respecting uses that may occur and provides the basis for resource management and other detailed planning.

Along with documentation in the draft and final land use plan, land use designations and associated area-specific policies will be provided in policy reports in Ontario's Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA).

The PFN-Ontario planning area is proposed to be designated as two zones:

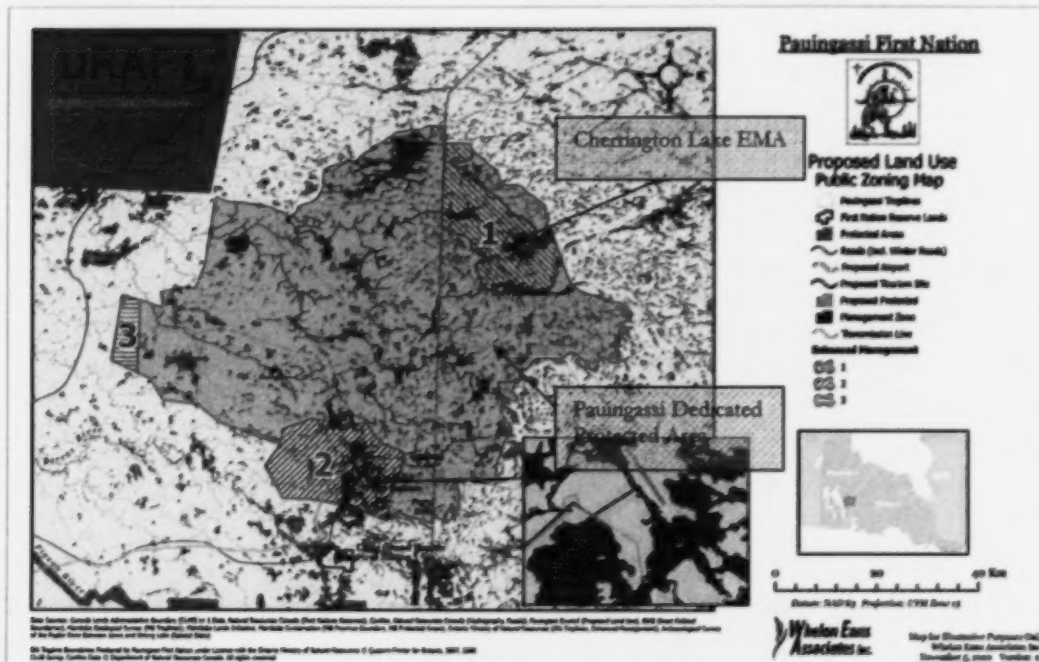
- Pauingassi Dedicated Protected Area: This zone is proposed to support protection of lands and waters, continued traditional use and existing and new tourism opportunities. The type of protected area and regulatory mechanism is to be determined jointly by Pauingassi and Ontario in a separate dialogue; and
- Cherrington Lake Enhanced Management Area: This zone is proposed to support both protection and potential economic development opportunities associated with areas of provincially significant mineral potential. This EMA will be assigned to the cultural heritage category.

Several waterways flowing through the planning area are noted to be important for traditional use and natural heritage conservation. Significant cultural and ecological values are associated with these waterways and they have been identified as historical travel routes. These waterways will have continued traditional use and require a high level of protection of values. They may also offer distinct opportunities for activities such as tourism, guiding, cultural interpretation, research studies, etc., providing economic benefits.

Additional zoning at a resource management planning level (e.g., protected area planning) will be considered to emphasize the importance of waterways and promote complementary activities, and to protect special cultural sites identified by the community (These sites are not made public).

Each zone is mapped in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Pauingassi Draft Community Based Land Use Plan - Proposed Zones



## Description of Proposed Zones and Direction

### Proposed Zone: Pauingassi Dedicated Protected Area

Size: 106,628 hectares

#### Description:

This landscape includes numerous lakes such as the Namiwan, Rheume and Palsen, each of which has associated ecological and cultural features. The area is traversed by a network of summer and winter traditional travel routes which are evidence of its rich cultural heritage. First Nation people conduct various traditional activities on this land for livelihood and cultural purposes.

No roads exist in the area. There are several remote tourism base lodges and outpost camps as well as registered commercial boat caches. Current land use management in the area includes bear management areas, a commercial fishing licence, and a wildlife management unit. The area is capable of supporting additional tourism and recreation opportunities focussed on appreciation of boreal ecological and cultural landscapes.

This area is notable for having several clear water lakes with healthy lake trout populations, a species that is relatively uncommon in the surrounding area. Indigenous knowledge and wildlife surveys confirm the presence of woodland caribou and wolverine, and woodland caribou winter habitat.

#### Land Use Intent:

The intent is to regulate the DPA as a protected area, although the specific designation and category are yet to be determined. The purpose of the designation is to promote protection objectives while supporting continuation of traditional uses and existing tourism, and to contribute to social and

economic objectives by advancing potential for new tourism opportunities and inclusion in the Pimachiowin-Aki World Heritage Site nomination.

The land use intent recognizes the importance of waterways as historical travel routes having significant cultural and ecological values and promotes activities that are complementary to protection of those values, including protection of special cultural sites identified by the community.

This designation will protect specific values or features on the landscape that represent Ontario's geological, aquatic and terrestrial diversity, protect landscapes of natural or cultural significance and contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological integrity.

**Management Direction:**

The following proposed direction has been developed by the planning team and is within the bounds of provincial policy. This direction is interim; Additional specific direction will be determined by the final designation assigned to this Dedicated Protected Area and by future resource management planning.

**Permitted Uses:**

- Aboriginal traditional activities which include (but are not limited to) hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering.
- Travel by motorized boat, snow machine or airplane.
- Recreational sport fishing, hunting, research/education,
- Commercial fur harvesting, commercial fishing, commercial tourism, wild rice harvesting.

**Excluded uses:**

- Commercial forestry, mineral exploration, mining, commercial hydroelectric development (transmission or generation), commercial wind power development, new energy transmission and communication corridors.
- Road building, aggregate extraction, peat extraction.
- Bait fishing

**Proposed Zone: Cherrington Lake Enhanced Management Area – Natural Heritage category**

**Size:** 32,135 hectares

**Description:**

The Cherrington Lake EMA includes Cherrington Lake and extends west to the Manitoba border. First Nation people conduct various traditional and customary activities for livelihood and cultural purposes. The area boundary is designed around a greenstone belt with low to moderate mineral potential.

There are no roads. There is one outpost camp and two registered commercial boat caches. Management boundaries relevant to the area include one bear management area, traplines, and a wildlife management unit.

**Land Use Intent:**

The intent is to promote protection objectives including sustaining the high quality fish and wildlife resources, traditional uses and existing tourism. Land use in this EMA may contribute to social and

economic objectives by encouraging the pursuit of potential new tourism opportunities and by permitting mineral sector opportunities while sustaining the cultural landscape.

The Cherrington Lake Enhanced Management Area has also been identified to protect remote recreation and tourism interests and complement protection interests of the Dedicated Protected Area. Forestry will not be pursued as an opportunity in this area.

**Management Direction:**

**Permitted Uses:**

- Aboriginal traditional activities which include (but are not limited to) hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering.
- Mineral exploration and development
- Travel by motorized boat, snow machine, ATV, airplane.
- Recreational sport fishing, hunting, research/education,
- Commercial fur harvesting, commercial fishing, commercial tourism, wild rice harvesting, commercial NTFP
- Aggregate extraction is permitted for site specific needs associated with the mineral sector; extraction for export of aggregate beyond the area is not permitted natural features are to be maintained.
- Roads are generally discouraged, but are permitted within the area if required to access mineral sector opportunities. The number of roads will be minimized. Roads would be developed in a manner that seeks to retain the integrity of the cultural and natural features and high quality remote tourism operations.

**Excluded uses:**

- Commercial forestry
- Peat extraction
- Bait fishing



## **B.2. Strategic Direction:**

The following direction will guide how the land use plan is to be implemented and how activities and developments will take place in a manner consistent with the stated goals and objectives. Specifics of land and resource use management are considered and confirmed through subsequent processes (e.g. resource management planning, environmental assessment). Strategic level direction is not intended to address specific management actions.

### **B.2.1 Direction for All Land Uses:**

Pauingassi First Nation and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources acknowledge that the preparation and implementation of this lands use plan will respect Aboriginal and treaty rights and rights under the Canadian Constitution, in particular Section 35; will be consistent with/will not alter existing provincial legislation and will be within the bounds of provincial policy.

All land uses will take place in a manner that:

- respects Pauingassi's traditional use and stewardship of these traditional lands as a recognized foundation that will help inform the use and management of these lands and waters and provide continuity in the connection of First Nation people to the land for past, present and future generations. Strategic direction is to:
  - bring forward traditional use and resource stewardship traditions, teachings and practices as part of a conservation approach (providing for care of the land);
  - make decisions based upon traditional values, teachings/methods and knowledge, along with science, providing the best knowledge currently available in terms of forests, land, water, wildlife, plants and fish management;
- recognizes the importance of:
  - encouraging training for youth in the future lands and resources management and opportunities,
  - building respectful, sharing relationships; and
  - relying upon the knowledge and teachings of elders;
- relies upon an ongoing knowledge base, evaluation and recommendations for best management practices and protection measures to:
  - support the ongoing health of the boreal forest;
  - promote healthy watersheds;
  - provide a continuous supply of fish & wildlife habitat, including for species at risk; and
  - protect cultural & natural heritage values from negative impacts;
- access to special sites will be solely for community members unless otherwise designated. Pauingassi will identify those special sites that require additional protection measures;
- recognizes the importance of identifying and supporting achievement of economic development opportunities that could benefit the members of Pauingassi First Nation and Ontario;
- respects existing stakeholder interests and encourage positive relationships;
- supports definition and promotion of opportunities to mitigate climate change;
- applies current/emerging science and expertise to recommend measures that can protect ecological processes and retain the value of stored carbon in the boreal forest and ground;
- recognizes the importance of ongoing learning from experience (i.e., adaptive management) for land use activities and resource management planning;

- respects the land and resources and retains the integrity of the area;
- considers local to broad scale aspects of all land uses (e.g., ecological, geographic) and cumulative effects (temporal &/or spatial); and
- in the face of uncertainty or risk, uses the precautionary principle to make decisions about land use and management. The 'precautionary principle' involves acting to avoid serious or potential harm to people or the environment where there is scientific uncertainty about likelihood, magnitude, or source of that harm.

## **B.2.2 Direction for specific land use activities:**

### **Traditional Uses**

- Fishing and hunting for food by community members is a priority.
- Community members building hunting and trapping cabins in the planning area will identify their location to MNR, for the purpose of fire suppression and protection of natural and cultural values.
- Community members will continue to use and maintain snow machine trails for winter access to trap lines and cabins.
- Pauingassi First Nation will address direction for traditional and customary uses in all future protected areas and resource management planning.

### **Commercial Trapping**

- Commercial trapping can continue in the planning area.
- Pauingassi's direction for commercial trapping is based on the customary stewardship approach of the community and consistent with Ontario policies, including:
  - All trap lines must be held by community members. If a trap line is not held by a community member it will be held in common by the community.
- Pauingassi will pursue creation of a "Trapping Council" in the community, proposing that the trapping council will;
  - develop management policies consistent with Ontario regulations.
  - pursue the ability to sell commercial trapping licenses.
  - review any proposed changes in head trapper for each Ontario trap line.

### **Renewable Energy Development**

- Pauingassi will identify locations to be considered for community members' energy use/needs.
- Acceptable proposals for energy development would include small scale (i.e. non-commercial, stand alone) run of the river, hydro, wind, solar and geothermal (e.g., supporting lodges, outpost camps, trap cabins, etc.).
- Additional direction may be provided within a management plan for the protected and enhanced management areas

### **Mineral Sector Activities**

- Develop and encourage use of a suite of "Best Management Practices" for mineral sector activities.
- Encourage the consultation of Pauingassi First Nation members in mineral sector activities (e.g. training, exploration, partnerships, business opportunities).



- Support early consultation and engagement requirements with Pauingassi First Nation; Pauingassi will seek to define an impact-benefit agreement with proponent.
- Address mining withdrawals from culturally sensitive sites as identified by community leadership.
- Minimize surface disturbances near water bodies and streams to ensure healthy/intake watersheds are maintained<sup>1</sup>.
- Emphasize the importance of rehabilitating mineral development areas in a timely manner.
- Ongoing monitoring scheduling and water quality sampling will be incorporated into resource management planning.

#### **Recreation**

- Opportunities for Pauingassi First Nation to benefit economically from recreational activities will be pursued in the planning and management of the protected and enhanced management area (e.g., partnerships, business opportunities, and participation in management).
- Sport fishing and hunting will continue as a land use activity in the planning area following Ontario regulations.
- Private motor boat use is permitted. Existing boat caches are permitted except where protected area objectives or values are threatened. New activities will be subject to review.
- Access by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and aircraft is permitted, except where dedicated protected area values or objectives may be compromised.
- Long term direction will be provided through Pauingassi-Ontario dialogue, classification and management planning.

#### **Commercial Fishing**

- Pauingassi can bring forward proposals for commercial fishing opportunities in the planning area.

#### **Forestry**

- Commercial forestry is not permitted in the PFN-Ontario planning area.
- Cutting trees is permitted for personal use, e.g., for camps, building cabins or fire wood; Additional direction may be provided within a management plan for the protected area.
- No trees will be harvested in specified sensitive natural and cultural areas.

#### **Commercial Non-timber Forest Products (NTFP)**

- Additional direction to support potential for commercial NTFP opportunities will be addressed in a protected area management plan.

#### **Tourism:**

- Potential new opportunities will be considered jointly by Ontario and Pauingassi (in light of the objectives) to determine whether, and how the opportunity will be pursued. The jointly-developed management plan for the proposed protection area may also provide direction on available opportunities.

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry will consider withdrawing aboriginal culturally significant sites in the Far North of Ontario from prospecting, staking, sale or lease.

- Recognize interest in planning new community-based tourism initiatives and promote First Nation owned operations for new tourism ventures.
- Encourage building new partnerships with existing tourism operations.
- Respect for existing tourism operations, encourage positive relationships and partnerships with Pauingassi.
- New and existing tourism establishments must operate in accordance with environmental standards and regulations, and in some cases incorporate enhanced Best Management Practices (BMP's) for water quality protection (i.e. septic systems).

New commercial activities in the planning area (e.g. sale of water) are subject to review for consistency with the dedicated protected area objectives and values. Additional direction may be provided in a management plan.

Best management practices will be used to manage human waste, garbage, effluent in the protected and enhanced management areas.

For tourism and recreation, fuel caches for existing licensed operations will be maintained per the current license. In the future best practices will be reviewed and new conditions may be recommended for the operations.

### **B.2.3 Additional Direction regarding management of lands and resources**

#### **Fisheries and Wildlife Management**

- Pauingassi will participate in dialogue with Ontario to bring forward the community's interests in management direction for sustainable fisheries resources and wildlife management.

#### **Species at Risk (Endangered Species Act, 2007)**

- Pauingassi and OMNR will work together to explore opportunities for joint research projects, gathering information and youth education projects.
- Pauingassi traditional knowledge and direction from OMNR will be applied in subsequent decision making processes to further protect habitat and the needs of species at risk.

#### **Fire Management / suppression**

- All fire fighting fuel caches will be mapped. If fuel caches are in a sensitive area they will be removed.
- Pauingassi and OMNR will develop a fire management plan for the protected area management plan. This plan can include identification of high value sites identified by PFN (e.g. cultural sites, cabins) and include identification of appropriate locations of fire fuel caches to avoid.

#### **Protected Area Management**

- Pauingassi will participate jointly with Ontario to prepare management plans and implement direction.
- Pauingassi will continue to participate in dialogue for opportunities associated with the Pimachiowin-Aki World Heritage Site nomination and protected areas.

### **B.3. Summary of the Proposed Land Use Plan Design**

The proposed zoning and direction reflects recommendations of the communities and the province, including input provided through consultation opportunities. The plan design strives to contribute to the achievement of goals and objectives.

The plan is a design for a Dedicated Protected Area and an Enhanced Management Area that will:

- support communication of an understanding of the area and the relationship of Pauingassi people to the land and resources by:
  - describing the nature of the area as it is defined by this relationship and associated customary and traditional uses;
  - recognition of the need for dialogue in the plan preparation and implementation;
  - integrating indigenous knowledge and science to support planning; and by
  - emphasize protection of valued landscapes, and cultural and ecological features including waterways.
- support the interconnection of protected areas. At the broad scale, there is already a substantial complex of protected areas (Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, Atikaki Wilderness Park, Lake Country), thus the PFN-Ontario Draft Plan recommendations would further contribute to achievement of a connected, contiguous protected area of over a million hectares.
- support protection of habitat for species at risk including summer and wintering habitat and calving areas for woodland caribou throughout the entire planning area. This landscape (planning area) is represented predominately by young jack pine and black spruce forest mix on a bedrock plateau interspersed with some large tracts of mature conifer forest. The conifer dominated forest will continue to provide valuable wintering habitat potential consistent with woodland caribou's life history strategies that are well adapted to large scale disturbances. Interconnection of the PFN-Ontario protected area within the larger complex of protected areas will also contribute to support the needs of woodland caribou in the area, providing travel corridors and substantial habitat to protect life cycle requirements for species at risk.
- promote potential for economic opportunities, including protected area management, tourism opportunities, NTFP, recreation, mineral exploration, research and education.
- contribute to the broad-scale objectives for protection with the UNESCO World Heritage Site proposal "Pimachiowin Aki". This proposed site includes 40,000 sq km including the planning areas for Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, Bloodvein River, Poplar River and Pikangikum First Nations as well as two large wilderness parks. The Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site is being marketed on behalf of the areas natural heritage and cultural values. It is through this nomination that we anticipate increased tourism and job creation for Pauingassi.
- support efforts in climate change mitigation and sequestration of carbon by protection of forests and peatlands.

Overall, the design seeks to focus on protection and economic development opportunities that are supported by the protection focus, within a context of the Pauingassi First Nation relationship to this area.

Note: PFN-Ontario planning area lies within Ecoregion 3S and Ecodistricts 3S-1 following the Ontario's Ecological Land Classification system. Full landform/vegetation representation of the ecodistrict has already been achieved for this ecodistrict.

#### **B.4 Proposed Implementation Direction**

Providing land use direction for the PFN-Ontario planning area is an important step. To implement the plan, the following actions are being proposed;

1. For the Dedicated Protected Area, Pauingassi First Nation and the OMNR will;
  - determine final protected area regulatory mechanism and designation category(ies) in subsequent dialogue (the types of protected area designations available would include existing under the PPCRA and may include new types associated with the Far North Planning Initiative);
  - provide public consultation opportunities during the process when the protected areas are regulated and /or new policy direction is provided.
  - prepare a management plan
  - through dialogue, Pauingassi and the Ministry of Natural Resources will pursue an arrangement for the collaborative management of the protected area in Ontario.
2. Propose a joint approach for future decision making, with respect for Aboriginal and treaty rights, considering;
  - development of future resource management plans.
  - all information sources including Pauingassi indigenous knowledge and science.
  - new uses as they can contribute to land use plan objectives, including desire for an improved community economy, training, and jobs for Pauingassi First Nation people.
3. Pauingassi First Nation and Ontario continue to work with their partners to prepare supporting documentation for the development of the Pimachiowin Aki UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination.
4. Pauingassi First Nation will pursue a dialogue with Ontario to address the creation of a Community Trapping Council (Section B2.2).
5. Working together with the MNDMF, develop a suite of "Best Management Practices" for mineral sector activities in the Enhanced Management Area.

Subsequent to this plan, land and resource allocations, resource management planning (e.g. protected area management planning) and resource management activities will be subject to the OMNR obligations under the Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act) and other relevant legislation such as the Provincial Parks Act, Conservation Reserves Act and the Public Lands Act. Periodically, the effectiveness of direction and decisions contained in the strategy will need to be re-evaluated.

### ***PART C: NEXT STEPS - from Draft to Final Plan***

The Draft Plan is proposed direction. A number of requirements must be addressed to complete a final land use plan:

- Input and advice from consultation opportunities will be considered by the planning team and summarized. The preparation of a final plan will consider the input and advice received.
- Endorsement of this final plan will be required from Pauingassi First Nation and from the OMNR.
- Policy reports: Land use area designations and strategic land use direction, determined through the land use planning process, will be added to the provincial atlas of land direction (Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA)), through an amending procedure.
- All recommended Dedicated Protected Areas will be under interim protection, pending formal regulation (Mining Act, Section 35 Withdrawal). Boundaries for mining withdrawals will be confirmed for the final plan.

Upon completion, the Final Land Use Plan will be shared publicly.

Your input to our Draft Plan is welcome.

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